

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the captioned Application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A fin for self-propulsion in a fluid, the fin comprising a blade constructed of a relatively rigid material, a shoe made of a first relatively yielding material, and a plurality of generally lateral ribs extending along edge portions of the blade, the blade having a plurality of longitudinal slots arranged symmetrically with respect to the longitudinal axis of the fin and a plurality of openings, extending diagonally from the shoe toward lateral edges of the blade, the slots and the openings being filled with a second relatively yielding material in the form of flattened ribs, the lateral ribs being both above and below the plane of the blade so as to enhance the spoon effect of the fin without increasing the overall rigidity of the blade.

Claim 2 (previously presented) The fin set forth in claim 1, wherein the lateral ribs are at least partially lined with the relatively yielding material of the shoe.

Claim 3 (previously presented) The fin set forth in claim 2, wherein the lateral ribs are constructed of a material having a rigidity intermediate between that of the blade and the shoe.

Claim 4 (previously presented) The fin set forth in claim 3, wherein the lining of the lateral ribs enlarges rearwardly along flank portions of the shoe so as to form respective sideway projecting fairings.

Claim 5 (currently amended) A fin for self-propulsion in a fluid, the fin comprising a blade constructed of a relatively rigid material, a shoe made of a first relatively yielding material, and a plurality of generally lateral ribs extending along edge portions of the blade, the blade having a plurality of longitudinal slots arranged symmetrically with respect to the longitudinal axis of the fin and a plurality of openings, extending diagonally from the shoe toward lateral edges of the blade, the slots and the openings being filled with a second relatively yielding material in the form of flattened ribs, wherein the lateral ribs are at least partially lined with the relatively yielding material of the shoe and are constructed of a material having a rigidity intermediate between that of the blade and the shoe, the lining of the lateral ribs enlarging rearwardly along flank portions of the shoe so as to form respective sideway projecting fairings,
[The fin set forth in claim 1 wherein] the blade extend[s]ing rearwardly by two arms forming containment flanks for the shoe and terminating with a hood to form a seating in which a respective buckle of a closure strap can engage.

Claim 6 (previously presented) The fin set forth in claim 5, wherein the lining of the ribs forming the lateral fairings has a thickness of not less than the thickness of the buckles applied to the ends of the arms.

Claim 7 (previously presented) The fin set forth in claim 5, wherein the thickness of the flattened ribs is greater than the thickness of the blade.

Claim 8 (previously presented) The fin set forth in claim 2, wherein a free edge of the blade is lined with a curb that closes the slots and becomes joined to the lining of the lateral ribs.

Claim 9 (currently amended) A fin for self-propulsion in a fluid, the fin comprising a blade constructed of a relatively rigid material, a shoe made of a first relatively yielding material, and a plurality of generally lateral ribs extending along lateral edge portions of the blade, the lateral ribs having a lining extending therefrom, the lining being constructed of a second relatively yielding material that enlarges at flank portions of the shoe, such that a sideways projecting fairing is generated, the blade comprising a plurality of arms that extend backwardly therefrom to form containment flanks for the shoe and terminate with respective seatings for buckles of a closure strap, the fairings projecting sideways to a thickness of not less than that of the respective buckle, and the lateral ribs being both above and below the plane of the blade so as to enhance the spoon effect of the fin without increasing the overall rigidity of the blade.

Claim 10 (currently amended) A fin for self-propulsion in a fluid, the fin comprising a blade constructed of a relatively rigid material, a shoe made of a first relatively yielding material, and a plurality of generally lateral ribs extending along

lateral edge portions of the blade, the lateral ribs having a lining extending therefrom, the lining being constructed of a second relatively yielding material that enlarges at flank portions of the shoe, such that a sideways projecting fairing is generated, the blade comprising a plurality of arms that extend backwardly therefrom to form containment flanks for the shoe and terminate with respective seatings for buckles of a closure strap, the fairings projecting sideways to a thickness of not less than that of the respective buckle, wherein the buckle comprises a connection head that extends from its inner face, the seating for the buckle comprising a hood that is generally convex toward the outside and has a shaped central opening with which the correspondingly shaped head of the buckle engages, so that the connection is subsequently made by rotating the head through 90° within the opening.

Claim 11 (currently amended) A fin for self-propulsion in a fluid, the fin comprising a blade constructed of a relatively rigid material, a shoe made of a first relatively yielding material, and a plurality of generally lateral ribs extending along lateral edge portions of the blade, the lateral ribs having a lining extending therefrom, the lining being constructed of a second relatively yielding material that enlarges at flank portions of the shoe, such that a sideways projecting fairing is generated, the blade comprising a plurality of arms that extend backwardly therefrom to form containment flanks for the shoe and terminate with respective seatings for buckles of a closure strap, the fairings projecting sideways to a thickness of not less than that of the respective buckle, wherein the buckle comprises a connection head that extends from its inner face, the seating for the buckle comprising a hood that is generally convex toward the outside and

has a shaped central opening with which the correspondingly shaped head of the buckle engages, so that the connection is subsequently made by rotating the head through 90° within the opening, the connection head being rotatably engaged in the opening of the hood.